

Service Date: April 4, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Application of) REGULATORY DIVISION
NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets)
Purchase) DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PSC CONSULTANTS' REPORTS

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-421(10) (2013), the Public Service Commission (PSC) contracted with two consultants, Evergreen Economics (Evergreen) and The Essex Partnership (Essex) to assist in the evaluation of NorthWestern Energy's application in this docket.

On March 27, 2014, Evergreen submitted to the PSC its *Final Assessment* of the PowerSimm model as a reasonable tool for use in NorthWestern's cost-benefit analysis of the proposed purchase compared to realistic, available alternatives.

On March 31, 2014, Essex submitted to the PSC the results of its review of NorthWestern's due diligence on the hydro assets in the form of a "checklist" that provided Essex's assessment of the docket information regarding the physical condition of the hydro facilities and NorthWestern's projections for capital expenditures and operation and maintenance costs. On April 2, 2014, Essex submitted to the PSC a memo that summarized its major findings.

The consultants' reports are available at the Commission's business offices and also may be viewed or downloaded on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov>.

Any party in this docket may submit written comments on either or both of the consultants' reports. Comments must be received no later than April 18, 2014. Comments must be submitted electronically (e-filed) on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" under "Electronic Documents" tab) and physically delivered or mailed to the Commission at 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana 59620-2601.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman

BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman

KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner